GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:947
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
High Speed Wi-Fi Services
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to roll out free high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity in cities and towns across the country over three years;

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid plan will be implemented by the Government owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(c) if so, whether these companies will be able to provide free access of Wi-Fi connectivity to the consumers; and

(d) whether BSNL and MTNL are suffering heavy losses?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided Wi-Fi services at over 300 locations with more than 860 Hotspots in more than 60 cities. BSNL would be providing free Wi-Fi services, for first 15 minutes once in a month per user. BSNL is in the process of setting up of Wi-Fi Hotspots in the country on revenue share model at selected locations on the basis of techno-commercial feasibility.

(d) Details of profit and losses of BSNL and MTNL for the last three years are as follows:
(in Rupees Crore)
<pre>
Year BSNL MTNL
2012-13 (-)7884 (-)5321
2013-14 (-)7020 7825
2014-15 (-)8234 (-)2893
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However, BSNL earned an operating profit of Rs. 673 crore during the year 2014-15. BSNL's income from services has increased by 4.16% in 2014-15 as compared to previous financial year which stands at Rs 27,242 crore.

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